30th January 1956]

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : May I know whether the proposal that the Government now affirm is to be implemented in the Third or Fourth or Fifth Five-Year Plan or straightaway now?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : The hon. Member need not be so very pessimistic.

Eviction of Harijans from slums

* 3099 *Q*.—SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY (on behalf of Sri A. Ratnam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state the number of cases pending in the courts of Madras City to evict Harijans from the slums owned by private parties up to 31st December 1953?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Five cases were pending on 31st December 1953.

SRI A. M. RATHNASWAMY : Sir, may I know the number of private slums which are owned by various parties in Madras City and also whether the Government contemplate taking any action against these private owners in view of the fact that the conditions of these slums are pretty bad? Do the Government have any proposal to ask these private owners either to surrender these lands to the occupants of the slums or to the City Improvement Trust?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Out of the five cases, four cases have been settled in favour of Harijans. One case is still pending in the High Court. The Government are already examining the suggestion of the hon. Member.

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN : In this connexion, may, I bring it to the notice of the Government that the Director of Harijan Welfare is handicapped for want of funds even for complying with fifty per cent of the applications received in the current year, and that he requires an additional grant of Rs. 5 lakhs to comply with the target of meeting fifty per cent of the applications? Will the Government go to his help at this juncture?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : I am afraid I cannot answer the question because it has nothing to do with the main question. But I may assure the hon. Member that whatever funds are available and are necessary for the purpose of meeting the demands of the Director of Harijan Welfare are being provided for.

SRI P. SELVARAJ : May I know whether the Backward Classes Commission have furnished a fresh list of communities?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : The hon. Member will please put a separate question. This supplementary does not arise out of the main question.